

## Introduction

The Southside Planning District is composed of Halifax, Mecklenburg and Brunswick counties and the towns of Alberta, Boynton, Brodnax, Chase City, Clarksville, Clover, Halifax, LaCrosse, Lawrenceville, Scottsburg, South Boston, South Hill and Virgilina. The region lies in the Piedmont Plateau physiographic province and is characterized by gently rolling uplands.

The Staunton (Roanoke) and Dan Rivers are the major recreational and scenic rivers in the region. Two other rivers, the Meherrin and Nottoway, also provide recreational boating, canoeing and fishing. The Staunton River is a designated state scenic river from Long Island in Campbell County to Clover Landing in Halifax County. The Meherrin is a designated state scenic river in Brunswick County.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has developed the John H. Kerr Reservoir on the Roanoke River in Halifax and Mecklenburg counties. Dominion Virginia Power has developed Lake Gaston further downstream in Mecklenburg and Brunswick counties and into North Carolina. The combination of the two lakes provides more than 73,000 acres of inland waters for recreation. It should be noted that while there is a fair amount of public access to the Kerr Reservoir, public access to Lake Gaston is limited.

Recommendations applicable to all regions are found in chapters III through IX. To meet needs established in the *2007 Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)*, it is important to integrate these recommendations with those that follow for Region 13 into regional and local planning and development strategies.

## Outdoor recreation

For a general discussion of outdoor recreation trends, issues and planning considerations in Virginia, see Chapter II: Outdoor Recreation Issues, Trends and Survey Findings, and Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Planning and Related Issues.

Public participation in recreation is high, and the *2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey (VOS)* recorded high demand for most activities. The needs analysis indicates a shortage of bicycle trail miles, campsites, playgrounds, swimming pools and hiking trails. Planning and funding are needed to create additional

developed park facilities for citizens. The needs analysis did not include demand generated by visitors from outside the region who use facilities. When visitor and tourist use of outdoor recreation facilities is factored in, shortages are indicated in other activities (See Table X-13).

Residents of Southern Virginia have an excellent supply of water-based recreation areas and facilities. Though few areas are publicly managed, the rural character of the area assures adequate open space and dispersed recreational lands in the short term. Some local parks, coupled with state parks and U.S. Corps of Engineer facilities, provide the majority of the public park acreage and facilities. The *2006 Virginia Outdoors Survey* recorded a need for baseball fields and basketball courts in most local communities and for up to 21 soccer and football fields in the region. The large number of private recreational enterprises located around Lake Gaston and the Kerr Reservoir appear as surpluses in the inventory. However, these facilities often are not available for local use because of heavy seasonal visitation. Public areas may need to be developed to meet local needs not adequately met by private providers.

The region continues to experience a slight decline in population. In 2000, the region had a population of 88,149. By 2005, the population had decreased to 87,600. None of the localities in the Region 13 are served by a full-time parks and recreation department. According to the Commonwealth of Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, *Comparative Report on Local Government Revenues and Expenditures* (year ended June 30, 2005), per capita spending on parks and recreation for each locality in this region was: Brunswick, \$1.79; Halifax, \$4.58; and Mecklenburg, \$0.92. This compares to a statewide per capita spending on parks and recreation of \$55.31, including \$85.51 from Towns, \$43.75 from counties, and \$76.45 from cities.

## Land conservation

A detailed discussion on statewide awareness of the need for conservation of farmland, parks, natural areas, and historical and cultural resources is found in Chapter III: Land Conservation. Conservation lands in the region are shown on Map X-26.

### Land Trusts and Conservation Programs Operating in Region 13

- Virginia Outdoors Foundation
- Trust For Public Land
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Conservation Fund
- Forest Legacy Program

### Green infrastructure

Information about green infrastructure is found in Chapter IV: Green Infrastructure. Regional recommendations for green infrastructure include:

- Local and regional agencies should become informed and educate constituents about green infrastructure planning, including guidance on local zoning initiatives for changing community design and transportation systems.

### Programs

The following recommendations integrate statewide program initiatives into responsive regional strategies for outdoor recreation and conservation. The statewide program areas addressed in this section include: trails and greenways, blueways and water access, historic and landscape resources, scenic resources, Scenic Highways and Virginia Byways, scenic rivers, watersheds, environmental and land stewardship education, and the private sector. Recommendations are bulleted or numbered and are not sequenced by state or local priorities. Numbered recommendations are site specific to the regional map at the end of this section (see Map 27).

### Trails and greenways

For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiatives, Greenways and Trails.

#### Statewide Trunkline Trails

**1** The proposed **Trans-Virginia Southern Trail** runs from the Cumberland Gap to the Chesapeake Bay across the southern portion of the state. In this region, the trail runs from the Pittsylvania County line east along the abandoned Norfolk, Franklin and Danville Railroad and the Richmond to Danville Railroad corridors to link with components of the Tobacco Heritage Trail. This then connects to the Virginia Beach Pipeline Trail which links with existing and proposed compo-

nents of the Tidewater trail system. This "Cumberland Gap to the Chesapeake Bay Trail," once constructed, will connect many of the towns in Southern Virginia and provide the backbone for many local trail systems. State, regional and local agencies and organizations should partner to continue planning and implementation of this trail.

**2** The **Tobacco Heritage Trail** utilizes abandoned railroad corridors and a series of connector trails to link the communities of the region together. This trunk-line trail system forms the major elements of the Trans-Virginia Southern Trail as it crosses through the region. State, regional and local agencies and organizations should continue to partner to continue planning and implementation of this trail.

#### Regional trails

**3** The abandoned **Seaboard Coastline** railroad corridor is being evaluated as the route of the Southeast High Speed Rail Line. This project should be developed as a multi-modal transportation project by including the provision of a bicycle and pedestrian trail in the planning, design and construction of the high speed rail service. From just south of Petersburg to Raleigh, this corridor could serve as the alignment for the East Coast Greenway. This corridor also connects the Tobacco Heritage Trail on the Norfolk, Franklin and Danville rail line with the Tobacco Heritage Trail on the Virginian rail corridor, thereby linking the two rails-to-trails together from LaCrosse to Alberta.

**4** The **Dan River Trail** should connect South Boston with Staunton River State Park. This trail would follow the river and lie mostly on Corps of Engineer project lands.

**5** The section of the former **Richmond-Danville Railroad** line is being developed as a rail-to-trail conversion from Ringgold to South Boston. This rail line parallels the Dan River and would provide a terrestrial component to the proposed Dan River Canoe Trail. This trail is an identified component of the Tobacco Heritage Trail system. The Richmond to Danville Railroad line between South Boston and Clover is lightly used and should be considered for a rail-with-trail project linking the Tobacco Heritage Trail to the Wilson Kautz Raid Trail and the Staunton River Trail.

**6** The **Staunton River Trail**, a multi-use trail connecting Staunton River Battlefield with Staunton River State Park, is being planned. This trail would follow the river and lie mostly on the Corps project lands. An intermediate access and parking area needs to be developed at the Dryburg Road crossing of Difficult Creek.

7 Improvements have been made with the 1992 bond funds at **Occoneechee State Park** to enhance public health, safety and enjoyment of the park. Trails have been enhanced throughout the park. A connector trail needs to be developed that will link the state park with the Tobacco Heritage Trail near Jeffress. The Tobacco Heritage Trail should be extended south into Clarksville from Jeffress using the old Route 58-Business bridge over the reservoir. The remaining sections of abandoned Norfolk, Franklin and Danville rail corridor in Halifax County should be acquired. This trail should be extended into North Carolina and connected to Danville from the south.

8 **U.S. Bicycle Route 1** should be enhanced and properly identified. State, regional and local agencies and organizations should determine the best route and develop plans for signage and mapping.

9 The Towns of Halifax and South Boston should continue to develop a trail on utility easements that follow **Terry's Creek and Toot's Creek**.

10 A **connector trail** should be developed that will join the **Tobacco Heritage Trail at Lawrenceville** with the Tobacco Heritage Trail segment located on the old Virginian Rail Road corridor in the vicinity of Dolphin or Smokey Ordinary.

11 A **trail corridor** should be identified that would link **Lawrenceville with Fort Christanna** in Brunswick County. Portions of this trail could provide access to the Meherrin River, which is a state scenic river.

## Water Access

Blueways and water access are critical in a water rich state such as Virginia. A discussion of the water access in the Commonwealth can be found in Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Water Access and Blueways. Water access recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should establish cooperative agreements among localities, other agencies and private landowners to meet the increasing need for public access to recreational waters.
- Regional and local agencies should identify strategies to make additional waterfront resources available for public use.
- Regional and local agencies should provide adequate support facilities and services, such as restrooms, concessions, parking and maintenance for existing and proposed public water and beach access areas.
- Regional and local agencies should acquire or maintain access to existing public beaches and water access sites that may be jeopardized by changes in land use or development activities.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and local government should expand public access to water by developing parking and launch facilities at bridge crossings.
- State, regional and local agencies and organizations should partner to provide needed access approximately every five miles along the Staunton, Dan, Meherrin, Banister, and Nottoway rivers. Although many access sites are already provided, several long stretches of these rivers need additional access. Where appropriate, portages should be created around dams and other river obstacles. Support facilities needed for water trails should be added at appropriate intervals.
- 12 The **Staunton River** below Leesville Dam supports recreational boating for most of the season. While DGIF offers a series of public access areas along the river, there is a need for additional access and public use areas to meet all the expectations for a water trail. Local governments should work with local user groups and landowners to provide additional public access where needed to make the water trail functional and provide the needed support facilities for recreationists.
- 13 State, regional, and local agencies and organizations should partner to develop the **Dan River** as a water trail from Danville to Staunton River State Park. A series of managed access and public use areas should be provided to meet the needs of water trail users while protecting riparian property owners.
- 14 State, regional, and local agencies and organizations should evaluate the **Banister River** in Halifax County as a potential blueway.
- 15 The **Meherrin River** in Brunswick County was recently designated a scenic river. The Meherrin River is an attractive resource, but a series of public access sites and use areas needs to be developed to support recreational use of the river. Regional and local organizations and agencies should work together to extend this water trail for the entire length of the Meherrin River.
- 16 The **Nottoway River** provides excellent scenery and recreational boating. State, regional and local agencies and organizations should develop this resource as a water trail.

**17 Lake Gaston** needs additional public access on the Virginia portion of the lake. There are only four public boat landings on the Virginia portion of the lake and no public access for swimming or picnicking. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF), and local governments should work with public and private partners to provide additional public access for boating, swimming, picnicking and lake use on the Virginia portions of the lake.

**18** Additional public access is needed for **Kerr Reservoir**, especially for bank fishing and lakeside trails for scenic viewing and wildlife watching. DCR, DGIF and local governments should work with public and private partners to provide additional public access on Kerr Reservoir.

### Historic and landscape resources

Consideration should be given to evaluating potential historic and landscape recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Historic and Landscape Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should identify historic and archaeological resources that can be used for tourism, recreation and education. These resources should be included in local land use planning and decision-making processes to promote preservation and protection.
- Regional and local agencies should build relationships with local historic attractions, historical societies, museums and other tourism organizations in the region to include the Virginia Association of Museums, Virginia Civil War Trails, APVA Preservation Virginia, the Virginia Main Street Program and others to enhance local heritage tourism, educational and recreational offerings.
- Regional and local agencies should encourage local governments and private organizations who own historic properties in the region to manage properties effectively for long-term protection and to maximize public benefit consistent with the nature of the historic property.
- Regional and local agencies should recognize the multiple historic and cultural resources within the rural landscape through rural historic districts.
- Regional and local agencies should support the creation of other heritage area programs to promote tourism and preservation in distinctive regions.

- Local government and local and regional organizations should work with the state to meet the critical need for county-wide surveys of historic and architectural resources in Mecklenburg and Brunswick counties.

### Scenic resources

Consideration should be given to potential scenic recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should develop corridor management plans for scenic byways, blueways, greenways and scenic rivers to assure preservation of the scenic quality of the corridor.
- Regional and local agencies should protect the scenic value of lands adjacent to publicly owned properties, as well as the scenic value of working agricultural and forestal areas key to maintaining a sense of place and economic vitality of the region. Scenic attributes to be considered include:
  - Encourage development away from mountaintops to protect significant vistas.
  - Consider timber harvesting impacts on key viewsheds.
  - Protect viewsheds along river corridors and scenic byways.
  - Create scenic overlooks and vista cuts along Virginia byways and scenic highways to enhance the visual experience of traveling.
- Regional and local agencies and organizations should assess scenic assets for this region to determine appropriate protection strategies.

### Scenic highways and Virginia byways

Opportunities to traverse Virginia's scenic and cultural landscapes are enhanced through nationally recognized designation. There has also been a tremendous interest in thematic trails including Civil War trails, the Wilderness Road Trail, the Birding and Wildlife trails, the Revolutionary War trails, the African-American Heritage Trail system, and other driving tour routes. The region's beautiful countryside is accessed by a system of well-maintained roads. Several of these roads are particularly scenic. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Highways and Virginia Byways.



Scenic roads recommendations for the region include:

- Regional and local agencies should recognize and nominate scenic roads for designation as Virginia byways.
- Regional and local agencies should partner with other state, local and professional organizations to develop corridor management plans to protect the scenic assets of byway corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should incorporate Virginia byways and scenic highways into local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to ensure viewsheds are conserved and the sense of place retained along these corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should support designation of nationally qualified historic corridors to increase civic engagement and foster heritage tourism.

The following road segments are potential Virginia Byways and should be evaluated to determine if they qualify for designation:

- 19 The Route **715** loop from Route 46 over Iron Bridge and back to Route 46 in Brunswick County makes a scenic tour and crosses the Meherrin State Scenic River.
- 20 **Routes 360** (Mountain Road) and **Route 659** (River Road) in Halifax County as components of a scenic loop that includes Routes 729, 360, 659, and 729 in Pittsylvania County.
- 21 Route **615** and **Route 707** from Route 903 westward to Route 58.
- 22 Routes which make up **Bike Route 1** through the region: **Routes 4, 674, 669, 664 and Route 635** from Route 4 to the North Carolina line.
- 23 **Route 903** in Brunswick County from Ebony to the North Carolina line.

### Scenic rivers

For detailed information about the Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program and its purpose, benefits and designation process, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiative, Scenic Rivers. The Meherrin River in Brunswick County was designated as a Virginia Scenic River in 2006. The Staunton River had its Scenic River designation extended from Brookneal to the Clover Landing in Halifax County. Regional and local recommendations include:

- Localities should adopt planning tools, e.g., land use overlays, corridor management plans, that will afford special recognition and protection to Virginia's scenic rivers.

The following river segments are potential Virginia Scenic Rivers and should be evaluated to determine suitability for designation:

- 24 The **Dan River** in its entirety.
- 25 The undesignated portions of the **Meherrin River** in Mecklenburg County.
- 26 The **Nottoway River** in Brunswick County.
- 27 The **Banister River** in Halifax County.

### Watershed resources

For information about Virginia's watershed programs, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Virginia's Watershed Programs.

#### Watershed Groups in Region 13

- Dan River Basin Association
- Roanoke River Basin Association
- Clean Virginia Waterways
- Virginia Conservation Network

### Environmental and land stewardship education

For detailed information on Environmental and Land Stewardship education, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Environmental and Land Stewardship Education. Environmental and land stewardship recommendations for this region include:

- Local and regional environmental education organizations should assess the outdoor environmental education facilities existing in this region.

### Federal programs

For information on federal programs affecting Virginia's outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities, see Chapter IX-A: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency.

### Other Federal Facilities

- 28 The **John H. Kerr Reservoir** and associated project lands in Mecklenburg and Halifax counties offers areas that may be suitable for additional recreational

opportunities. The John H. Kerr Reservoir includes 25,000 acres of project lands in Virginia in addition to reservoir acreage. Some of these lands have development potential for increasing recreational use of this 20,000-acre lake. In particular, two long-distance trails have been proposed on project lands. The first is along the north bank of the Dan River from South Boston to Staunton River State Park. The second is along the banks of the Staunton River from Staunton River Battlefield State Park to Staunton River State Park. There is also an opportunity to increase the number of bank fishing and water access areas around the reservoir. Small parking areas with short trails along the shoreline in areas with good fishing potential should be developed to meet the need for more fishing access.

Sections of the Tobacco Heritage Trail traverse Kerr Reservoir property and require restoration of several bridges that were removed during salvage. Piers and bridge support structures still remain, but spans need to be replaced. The Corps should cooperate with Tobacco Heritage Trail managers to restore the missing bridges.

**29 Fort Pickett** in Nottoway, Dinwiddie and Brunswick counties should be evaluated for opportunities to increase public recreational use within the base mission.

### State facilities and programs

For a discussion of state facilities and programs throughout the entire Commonwealth, see Chapter IX-B: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency or program.

### State Parks

**30** The **Staunton River Battlefield State Park** is being expanded through acquisition of additional lands to protect the battlefield site. The Mulberry Hill Plantation buildings have been stabilized. The plantation and its owners played prominent roles in the settlement and history of this part of the Staunton River Valley.

Archeological excavations at the park have uncovered significant artifacts of Native American habitation of this area. The refurbished Randolph train depot has exhibits that tell several "stories" — the story of the people who inhabited this area prior to European colonization and the story of the settlement and history of the Staunton River Valley.

**31** At **Staunton River State Park**, efforts are underway to develop equestrian facilities to include a horse trail connecting the park with the Staunton River Battlefield State Park. This trail would follow the river and lie mostly on the Corps of Engineer project lands. There have been major additions of land to the western edge of Staunton River State Park. This new acreage includes fishing lakes, locations for additional overnight facilities and additional miles of roads suitable for equestrian and bicycle trails. The master plan for the park should be revised to consider how the new lands should be managed.

Park staff should cooperate with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, local governments and trail advocacy organizations to develop and operate the Dan River Trail and the Staunton River Trail on Kerr Reservoir project lands.

**32** Improvements have been made with the 1992 bond funds at **Occoneechee State Park** to enhance public health, safety and enjoyment of the park. The campgrounds have been improved and the visitor center exhibits replaced. An equestrian campground is under development. A connector trail needs to be constructed that links the park to the Tobacco Heritage trail near Jeffress.

**33** A state park has been proposed in Brunswick County that would take advantage of the features of the Meherrin State Scenic River, Fort Christanna, and the historic, scenic, and recreational resources of the region. Another potential site in Brunswick County is on Lake Gaston where additional public ownership would enhance public access to water based recreational activities.

### State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries should continue to develop trail systems within wildlife management areas to facilitate access for nature study, bird watching, hunting and fishing. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) manages the 1,400- acre Dick Cross Wildlife Management Area in this region.

**34** Additional land acquisitions are proposed for the **Dick Cross** (formerly Elm Hill) **Wildlife Management Area** in Mecklenburg County. This wildlife management area contains lands that can meet many regional demands for dispersed recreation. In a combined effort with local governments, hiking trails can be more fully developed and enjoyed outside of the normal hunting

season. and horseback riding and bicycling may take place on roads and larger trails. Nature study, wildlife viewing, picnicking and fishing are also available.

### State natural area preserves

Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve in Halifax County is located within Region 13.

DCR, as of November 2006, documented 194 occurrences of 82 rare species and natural communities in the Southside Planning District. Twenty-five species are globally rare and four are federally threatened or endangered. Sixty-six conservation sites have been identified in the district; 32 (48 percent) have received some level of protection through ownership or management by state, federal and non-government organizations. However, no sites are protected well enough to ensure the long-term viability of the rare species and natural communities they support.

DCR recommends that all unprotected conservation sites, and all unprotected portions of partially protected sites, be targeted for future land conservation efforts. The appropriate method of protection will vary with each site but may include placing the site on Virginia's Registry of Natural Areas, developing a voluntary management agreement with the landowner, securing a conservation easement through a local land trust, acquiring the site through a locality or local land trust, dedicating the site as a natural area preserve with the current owner, or acquiring the site as a state-owned natural area preserve.

Within Region 13, DCR is particularly interested in protecting:

- Buffer lands around Fort Pickett.
- Additional lands around Difficult Creek Natural Area Preserve.
- Piedmont hardpan forest and Piedmont savannah communities.
- Granite flatrock communities.

### Other state lands

For a discussion of other state lands, see Chapter IX-C: Resource Agencies.

The following state-owned lands contain significant undeveloped open space that may have some potential for local recreational use. Each site should be assessed and, where appropriate, a cooperative agreement should be developed to make these resources available for local use as parks and open space.

The following properties contain undeveloped land that may be suitable for recreational use:

**35 Medium Security Institute #1** in Brunswick County has 700 acres of undeveloped land that should be evaluated for its potential for meeting local recreational demand.

**36 Southside Community College** in Brunswick County has 62 acres of land that should be evaluated for its recreational potential.

### Transportation programs

- Local and regional agencies should develop alternatives to the use of private automobiles for daily activities. Transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, improved community design, as well as a change in people's attitudes toward transportation alternatives will be needed for the transportation system of the future to meet capacity needs and energy constraints.
- Local and regional agencies should work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to implement Context Sensitive Solutions that accommodate multiple transportation modes.
- Local and regional agencies should recognize the need for a network of low-speed, low-volume roadways used by equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists, and they should include protections for this network in their comprehensive plan.
- Local and regional agencies should encourage the development of a permanent process for integrating the recommendations of local public health agencies, and they should include "active living" opportunities into all phases of transportation planning, land use planning and project design.
- Region 13 counties have an adopted Bicycle-Pedestrian plan. VDOT and the local governments should work closely together to implement these plans.

**37 U.S. Bicycle Route 1** should be enhanced and properly identified. State, regional and local agencies and organization should determine the best route and develop plans for signage and mapping (see Recommendation 8).

**38** Bicycle and pedestrian accommodations should be included as part of the project scope when planning the **Southeast High Speed Railway** on the alignment of the former CSX Railroad's Seaboard Line (the S Line). This corridor would make an appropriate

alignment for the East Coast Greenway, and it also provides important linkages for the Tobacco Heritage Trail and the Trans-Virginia Southern Trail (see Recommendation 3).

### Local and regional parks and recreation departments

In this region, only Halifax County and the Town of South Boston have full time parks and recreation departments. The other localities should consider making a larger commitment to addressing the recreational needs of their citizens. For a discussion of local and regional parks and recreation departments, see Chapter IX-D: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Explore reclamation of abandoned landfills into new and needed parks.
- Consider cooperative management for the recreational use of private, corporate and state or federally owned lands in order to increase local access and meet outdoor recreation needs.
- The Tobacco Heritage Trail will be connecting many of the communities of Southern Virginia together as one long linear park. Local governments should partner to continue planning and implementation of this trail.

### Regional Parks

**39 Great Creek Reservoir** in Brunswick County is a 212-acre impoundment with 8.1 miles of shoreline. The lake provides opportunities for fishing and boating. Recreational facilities recently constructed on the upland areas will provide picnicking, trails, athletic play fields and other opportunities for the community. Brunswick County should work with other regional and local partners to connect this park to the Tobacco Heritage Trail and to downtown Lawrenceville so the public can visit the park without having to drive a vehicle.

### Local Parks

**40 The Town of Alberta** is developing a park and trails system and may utilize portions of the Virginian Railroad corridor through town. This section of railroad will also be part of the Tobacco Heritage Trail and should connect the town's trails with the rest of the region.

**41 The Town of South Boston** is developing **Cotton Mill Park**. A connector trail should link the park to the Tobacco Heritage Trail.

**42 The Town of LaCrosse** is developing a town park system. The Town should look for connectors to the Tobacco Heritage Trail.

**43 Brunswick and Mecklenburg Counties** should look for opportunities to acquire park land on **Lake Gaston** to help meet the need for public access and water enhanced recreation.

### Private sector

This region is a major destination area for vacationers. Much of the demand for outdoor recreation is met by the private sector. The following recommendations pertain to this region:

- There is a great deal of interest in outdoor adventure recreation. Canoe liveries and rafting trips are good businesses to develop along canoeable rivers such as the Dan, Nottoway, Staunton and Meherrin. By developing agreements with riparian landowners along a river, livery operators can offer their customers canoeing trips of various lengths with camping available at prearranged spots.
- Local governments and developers should give design consideration to the natural contours of the land when planning and constructing.
- Regional and local organizations should continue to support campgrounds, resident summer camps for children, golf courses, tennis courts, swimming pools, marinas and indoor recreational facilities. These private facilities would help meet needs identified in the 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey*.
- Regional and local organizations and businesses should assess entrepreneurial opportunities that may exist for outfitter services to provide canoeing, kayaking, boat launches, and canoe-in campgrounds. Multi-field sports complexes and swimming pools may also be appropriate private sector endeavors.
- Private landowners should consider fee-based hunting, fishing and boating access.
- Regional and local organizations and businesses should assess the expansion capability for the hospitality industry to support outdoor recreation venues. Bed and breakfasts, hotels, motels and camping facilities that are located in attractive settings near recreation areas may find ample demand to justify the investment.
- Marinas, and especially dry storage boat facilities, should be successful ventures on Kerr Reservoir and on Lake Gaston on the Virginia side. Existing facilities are inadequate to meet projected demand.



**44 Lake Gaston** was constructed by Dominion Power Company as a hydro-electric project. The lake that the dam created provides a significant amount of flat water recreational acreage for the region. This lake has become an important destination tourism attraction and a popular second home or retirement location. In 2005, the project was re-licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and Dominion agreed to contribute funds to acquire and develop a public park on the Virginia shore of the reservoir. Local and state governments should try to identify the best site to acquire and develop (see Recommendation 33).



**Table X-13. Region 13 (Southside Planning District) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs**

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Baseball	207,198	41	fields	32	9	11
Basketball	198,828	47	goals	28	19	21
Bicycling	160,270	11	miles	NI		
Mountain	23,993	2	miles	NI		
Other	136,277	10	miles	NI		
Lake, river and bay use (combined)	256,498	4,870	water acres	54,077	-49,207	-49,076
Power boating	126,851	3,057	water acres	S		
Sailing	17,966	155	water acres	S		
Saltwater fishing	58,537	329	water acres	S		
Jet ski, personal watercraft	21,557	338	water acres	S		
Water skiing, towed on water	31,588	990	water acres	S		
Camping	127,018	749	sites	2,751	-2,002	-1,946
Tent camping	61,618	363	sites	664	-301	-269
Developed camping	65,400	386	sites	2,087	-1,701	-1,677
Fitness trail use	60,596	5	mile trails	2	3	3
Fields (combined)	217,827	46	fields	25	21	23
Football	113,292	24	fields	25	-1	0
Soccer	104,535	22	fields	-	22	23
Stream use (combined)	382,089	243	stream miles	96	147	161
Freshwater fishing	332,192	234	stream miles	S		
Human-powered boating	24,803	6	stream miles	S		
Rafting	5,932	1	stream miles	S		
Tubing	19,162	3	stream miles	S		
Golfing	112,326	4	courses	126	-3	-3
Hiking, backpacking	165,037	85	trail miles	226	-141	-137
Horseback riding	33,579	15	miles	75	-60	-59
In-line skating	24,416	2	miles	NI		
Jogging, running	1,129,896	91	mile trails	NI		
Nature study, programs	30,772	4	sites	1	3	4

**Note:** Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

**NA:** not applicable, no standard needed

**S:** same as combined

**NS:** not inventoried separately

**NI:** not inventoried

**( - )** indicates surplus

**Table X-13. Region 13 (Southside Planning District) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs – continued**

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Picnicking away from Home	119,942	311	tables	915	-604	-583
Skateboarding	51,004	16	sites	NI		
Snow skiing or snowboarding	19,893	1	ski lifts	-	1	1
Softball	153,914	27	fields	21	6	8
Sunbathing, relaxing on beach	222,307	16	beach acres	2	14	15
Swimming	1,006,320	69		NI		
Outdoor Area	529,960	54	beach acres	2	52	55
Outdoor pools	309,099	13	pools	22	-9	-8
Indoor pools	167,261	2	pools	-	2	2
Tennis	68,096	43	courts	20	23	25
Used a playground	259,821	37	sites	38	-1	1
Visiting gardens	42,536	5	sites	NI		
Visiting historic sites	153,824	13	sites	NI		
Visiting natural areas	181,370	31	sites	NI		
Volleyball	22,578	7	courts	-	7	7
Hunting	260,095	42,653	acres	103,952	-61,299	-58,232
Drive for pleasure	631,386	NA	NA	NI		
Driving motorcycle off road	34,745	16	miles	-	16	17
Driving 4-wheel-drive off road	73,916	NA	NA	NS		
Walking for pleasure	2,876,555	NA	NA	NI		
Bird watching	25,741	NA		NI		
Other	21,460	NA	NA	NI		

**Note:** Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

**NA:** not applicable, no standard needed

**S:** same as combined

**NS:** not inventoried separately

**NI:** not inventoried

**(-)** indicates surplus



Map X-26. Region 13 (Southside Planning District) Conservation Lands (11 x 17 color)

Map X-27. Region 13 (Southside Planning District) Outdoor Recreation (11 x 17 color)